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December 19, 2003

Michael O. Leavitt, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building (1101A)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460

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Re: Comments on the HPV test plan for crude 2-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl-3'-acetoxydiphenyl ether

Dear Administrator Leavitt:

The following are comments on the HPV test plan for crude 2-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl-3'-acetoxydiphenyl ether (RH-35201) (CAS no. 50594-77-9), submitted by Dow AgroSciences LLC (Dow). These comments are submitted on behalf of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the Humane Society of the United States, the Doris Day Animal League, and Earth Island Institute. These animal, health and environmental protection organizations have a combined membership of more than ten million Americans.

Dow submitted its test plan on August 14, 2003 for RH-35201. The major uses are briefly described in the test plan, and a concise description is given for the required endpoints. RH-35201 is used in the production of pesticides, and already has basic toxic information gathered to ensure safe handling procedures.

As a result, all necessary toxicity testing has already been completed, and Dow only proposes to calculate fugacity data. Robust summaries are complete for human health endpoints.

We commend Dow for ensuring that all available information is provided for RH-35201 and concur that no additional animal testing is necessary under the HPV Challenge Program. Thank you for your attention to these comments. I may be reached at 202-686-2210, ext. 335, or via e-mail at kstoick@pcrm.org.

Sincerely,

Kristie M Stoick, M.P.H.
Research Analyst

Chad B. Sandusky, Ph.D.
Director of Research